

## **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 132**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 126**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 132—Relative to Hybrid Vehicle Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 31, 2006.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SCR 132, Lowenthal. Hybrid Vehicle Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of November 2006 as Hybrid Vehicle Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Today the average person drives 15,000 miles per year, representing an increase of approximately 150 percent since 1970; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Automobile Association (AAA) Daily Fuel Gauge Report, gasoline prices in the State of California are among the highest in the country, having doubled in the last four years; and

WHEREAS, The average price of gasoline in California has reached three dollars (\$3) per gallon nearly one dollar (\$1) per gallon more now than it was a year ago; and

WHEREAS, The most fuel efficient hybrid vehicles are able to drive more than 45 miles on a gallon of gas, far exceeding the current U.S. national average fuel economy standard of 27.5 miles per gallon for passenger vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Switching from a conventional vehicle that runs solely on gasoline to a hybrid vehicle can significantly improve fuel efficiency, thereby reducing petroleum demand and foreign oil dependency; and

WHEREAS, Of the many decisions consumers make, their choice of vehicle will have a significant impact on the environment and air quality; and

WHEREAS, Increased use of hybrid vehicles relative to conventional, gasoline powered vehicles can reduce carbon dioxide emissions, a leading cause of global warming; and

WHEREAS, Replacing conventional vehicles with hybrid vehicles can reduce other air pollutants that, according to the National Safety Council, contribute to health problems including cancer, birth defects, respiratory illness, heart and lung disease, and asthma; and

WHEREAS, According to R.L. Polk & Company, California led the nation with over 52,000 new hybrid vehicle registrations in the year 2005, accounting for 26.4 percent of the nation's share of new hybrid vehicles; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Motor Vehicles reports that presently, there are over 28 million registered passenger vehicles in California, and about 102,000 of those, or 3.6 percent, are hybrid vehicles; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2005 survey conducted by KPMG, automobile industry leaders believe sales of hybrid cars, as well as other fuel efficient models, will outpace sales of sport utility vehicles, pickups, and luxury models over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, According to J.D. Power and Associates, there will be approximately 35 hybrid vehicle model choices available to consumers in 2008 and over 50 models by 2012; and

WHEREAS, Education about hybrid vehicles raises awareness and encourages further development of transportation choices that can shape a more sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, According to a survey conducted by AAA of Northern California, 86 percent of its members who drive would like more education on hybrid and other alternative fueled vehicles; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the month of November 2006 is hereby officially designated Hybrid Vehicle Awareness Month; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.